

**ABSTRACT**

A nicked cutting rule includes a shank portion having two substantially parallel shank side surfaces extending in a direction of length of the rule separated by a thickness of the shank portion. The nicked cutting rule further includes a V-shaped cutting edge portion defined by two cutting edge portion surfaces that intersect at ends remote from the shank portion to define a cutting edge, the cutting edge portion having portions separated in the direction of length of the rule by a plurality of notches extending inwardly from the cutting edge toward the shank portion. The nicked cutting rule also includes an intermediate portion between and integral with the shank portion and the cutting edge portion, the intermediate portion being thinner than the thickness of the shank portion and including two intermediate portion surfaces extending between the two shank side surfaces and the two cutting edge portion surfaces. A hardness of the shank portion, a hardness of the cutting edge portion, the thickness of the shank portion, and the thicknesses of the intermediate portion and the cutting edge portion are selected such that the nicked cutting rule is bendable.